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Message Text

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21 11
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 PCH-08 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 OPR-02 /191 R

DRAFTED BY NEA TASK FORCE:WTCLUVERIUS:SKG
APPROVED BY NEA:EGY:MSTERNER
S/S-O:RWRIGHT
---------- 083003
O 120530Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH
AMCONSUL CURACAO BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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INFORM CONSULS

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT DOHA

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XX
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
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1. FOLLOWING FYI IS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION THROUGH EVENING OCT 11.

2. SYRIAN FRONT REMAINED MOST ACTIVE WITH ISRAELIS BREAKING THROUGH SYRIAN LINE IN NORTHERN GOLAN HEIGHTS. BY NIGHTFALL IN AREA ISRAEL CLAIMED TO HAVE ADVANCED 6-8 MILES EAST OF 1967 CEASE-FIRE LINE FOLLOWING BREAKTHROUGH ON FRONT SOME 6-7 MILES WIDE. ACCORDING NEWS REPORTS, ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN SPOKE OPTIMISTICALLY EVENING OCT 11 THAT HE BELIEVED SYRIAN ARMY HAD BROKEN IN BATTLE AND THAT BY MORNING SYRIAN FRONT "WILL HAVE ENDED IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW." ISRAELI MILITARY COMMENTATOR SAID TODAY THAT 800 OF SYRIA'S 1400 TANKS HAD BEEN DESTROYED. ISRAELI AIR AND NAVAL ATTACKS BEHIND SYRIAN LINES CONTINUED OCT 11, WITH AIR STRIKES AGAINST AIR FIELDS AND PETROLEUM FACILITIES. ISRAELI NAVAL UNITS CONTINUED ATTACKS AGAINST NAVAL AND PETROLEUM FACILITIES ALONG SYRIA'S MEDITERRANEAN COAST, REPORTEDLY SINKING MORE SYRIAN MISSILE BOATS AND SETTING FIRE TO GREEK FREIGHTER AT LATAKIA.

3. EGYPTIAN FRONT REMAINED RELATIVELY STATIC. ISRAELIS BOMBED WEST OF CANAL, CHIEFLY IN PORT SAID AND FURTHER WEST IN NILE DELTA AREA, AND LAUNCHED COMMANDO RAIDS ACROSS CANAL NEAR ITS NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ENDS. ISRAEL CLAIMS TO HAVE STOPPED EGYPTIAN ATTACKS FROM BRIDGEHEADS EAST TOWARD MITLA PASS AND SOUTH ALONG COAST OF SINAI. ISRAELI CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT ON SYRIAN FRONT HAS ENABLED EGYPTIANS REINFORCE AND SUPPLY BRIDGEHEADS EAST OF CANAL.ISRAEL ESTIMATES EGYPT HAS 700-800 TANKS AND 30-40,000 TROOPS EAST OF CANAL.

4. DIA ESTIMATES OF LOSSES AT END OF FIGHTING ON OCT 10 ARE AS FOLLOWS: EGYPT - 82 A/C AND 300 TANKS, SYRIA - 84 A/C AND 600 TANKS, ISRAEL - 74 A/C AND 550 TANKS.

5. PRESSURE ON KING HUSSEIN TO GO TO WAR UPPED A NOTCH TODAY BY VISIT TO KING OF IRAQI FONMIN WHO DELIVERED LETTER FROM IRAQ'S PRESIDENT. KING HUSSEIN HAS PUT ARMED FORCES ON FULL ALERT AND CALLED FOR VOLUNTEERS, BUT SO FAR THIS IS SEEN MORE AS PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE

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TO DEFLECT CRITICISM THAN AS INDICATING INTENT TO JOIN IN WAR.

6. SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO SYRIA AND EGYPT, WHICH STARTED YESTERDAY, IS CONTINUING WITH 10 NEW FLIGHTS IDENTIFIED IN EARLY HOURS OF OCT 11. U.S. MEDIA (QUOTED IN ARAB WORLD) SAY ISRAEL IS ITSELF PICKING UP AMMUNITION AND MISSILES IN U.S. LONDON HAS PLACED

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ARMS EMBARGO ON MIDEAST BUT FRANCE HAS RELEASED TWO TANK SHIPMENTS, ONE FOR LIBYA AND OTHER FOR SAUDI ARABIA.

7. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING 1845 EDT PRODUCED MOSTLY RHETORIC FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA, EGYPT AND ISRAEL. EGYPT'S FONMIN ZAYYAT CONDEMNED ISRAEL FOR RAIDS ON CIVILIANS IN NILE DELTA, CLAIMING 500 KILLED, AND WARNED ISRAEL TO DESIST, IMPLYING RETALIATION ON ISRAELI CIVILIAN CENTERS. SYRIA'S VICE FONMIN MADE SIMILAR CHARGES. EBAN THEN NAMED NUMEROUS ISRAELI CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS HIT BY SYRIAN FROG MISSILES AND REVEALED THAT ISRAELI PILOT HAD SOME DAYS AGO SUCCESSFULLY DOWNED EGYPTIAN AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILE FIRED AT TEL AVIV.

8. CAIRO'S MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) CARRIED ITEM ABOUT 1800 EDT THAT U.S. CARRIER-BASED PHANTOM HAD STRAFED EGYPTIAN POSITIONS. ATTRIBUTING STORY TO "WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES," MENA SEEMED UNSURE HOW TO PLAY STORY,KILLING IT IN ENGLISH SERVICE SOON AFTER ISSUING IT BUT LETTING IT BE CARRIED BY ARAB SERVICE. DEPT PROMPTLY ISSUED STATEMENT TERMING REPORT "MISCHIEVOUS AND OUTRAGEOUS LIE."

9. FOREGOING FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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